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Country: Union of South Africa

CIA [REDACTED]

Subject: Modernization of De Beers Consolidated Mines, Ltd. Processing Plant at Kimberley 27 October 1953

Date of Info: 28 Oct 53

Supplement to:

Place Acquired: - - -

Responsive to:

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Source: [REDACTED]

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1. De Beers Consolidated Mines, Ltd., which has a huge processing plant for diamond ore at Kimberley, Griqualand West, South Africa, is presently doing its crushing with 50, somewhat antiquated, roll mills and for the past year have been shopping around for new machinery to modernize and increase the production of this plant. They have decided on installing 25 new 36" gyratory crushers. Their consulting engineers of the Anglo American Corporation of South Africa, at Johannesburg, feel that with these 25 gyratory crushers De Beers will be able to equal or perhaps better their present capacity of 10,000 tons of diamondiferous <sup>rock</sup> per day. In other words, they feel that one gyratory crusher will do the work of two of their present roll mills. Mr. Howard Taylor, about 40 years of age and of English descent, the general manager at De Beers, and a Mr. Colvin, about 46 years of age and also of English descent, superintendent at De Beers, told me that they also plan to rehandle the several dumps in order to get out the smaller diamonds which were missed during the first handling. There are about five of these dumps containing about 5,000,000 tons each in the Kimberley area.

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2. The yield at Kimberley per 10,000 tons handled averages about one pound, or about 2,000 carats. Of this one pound, about 60% are industrial diamonds and the remainder are gems.
3. We have been dealing with Mr. Bone (fnu), who is an assistant engineer in the Johannesburg office of the Anglo American Corporation of South Africa, who is doing some of the engineering for De Beers. We were under the impression that contracts would have been let and perhaps some deliveries made by this time. However, the project is still more or less under discussion.

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